SCHEDULE C. PART 4.—*Buildings and Offices.*—The words "*now built or*" should be taken out, as it is impossible to deal with buildings *already built*. The word "*external*" ought also to be taken out, and also all that part of the second paragraph from and after the word "*separately*" to the end.

SCHEDULE D.—*Foundations.*—The whole of this ought to be taken out, as *compelling* the builder to go to an unnecessary expense, especially in the smaller description of houses; and the same in the bottom regulation of *Walls generally.*—And here it may be remarked, how could this enactment be carried out in houses *already built?* Also, with regard to *Breast-summers*, surely a builder ought to be left to his own discretion in determining their scantlings, and also the method of fixing them; this is a partial return to the objections in the proposed Act of last session.

SCHEDULE D. PART 3.—*Site of Walls.*—To this part of the Schedule ought to be added the words "*and also for the additional brick-work.*"

Openings in Party-walls.—The privilege of making openings through party-walls ought, in justice, to be extended to all persons subject to the permission of the referees. The committee, therefore, recommend the taking out all the words from "*with regard*" to the words "*first class.*"

SCHEDULE E.—*In the Projections.*—One of the regulations permits projections, if built of incombustible materials, while in a further regulation nothing is to project beyond the general line of building.

These regulations ought to be much better defined, as, in fact, one contradicts another.

No projection ought to be permitted, (shop-fronts or architectural decorations excepted,) beyond the general line of fronts.

The heights of shop-fronts and sign-boards might be improved by an additional three feet being added to the respective heights.

SCHEDULE F.—*Rules Concerning Chimneys.*—Chimneys ought to be permitted to OVERSAIL sidewise, such oversailing to be restricted to an angle of about 135 degrees: no danger whatever could arise by this permission.

Chimney Tubes—if inserted one foot into the chimney-shaft, are quite as secure as if inserted two feet. The word "*two*" might then be altered to "*one.*"

SCHEDULE I.—*Rules Concerning Streets and Alleys.*—The width of every street upon any new site ought to be regulated by the number of stories of which the houses in such street are intended to be built. Thirty feet is much too little in a street, the houses of which are three, four, or five stories high above the footway.

SCHEDULE K.—*Under-ground Rooms.*—The committee cannot clearly understand that by this schedule only *under-ground* rooms are intended, nor if this be intended only to apply to such *under-ground rooms*, or to any other, whether let separately or not.

Your committee strongly recommend that the area of a room be not made to govern or restrict its use and occupation; but that every room having sufficient light and a chimney, be permitted to be occupied, even if not containing a square of flooring. Your committee beg to repeat and impress that if this become a law, thousands of houses, or parts of such houses, would be put out of use as dwellings, although built and controlled as to area by an Act of Parliament of nearly three-quarters of a century standing.

SCHEDULE L.—*Fees Payable to Surveyors.*—The fees in this schedule are fixed fees, to be paid upon the respective rates of buildings. They are, in four of the rates, similar to the fees under the old Act, but with this difference, that under that Act the fees were not fixed at the respective sums, but they were not to be exceeded, although they might be diminished, and which was often the case.

The committee have no objection to the scale of the first six fees; but to the seventh fee, "that for inspecting and reporting to the official referees upon party-walls," they cannot submit, the more especially as this fee will be included in the district fees.

To New Buildings.—*To Alterations or to Rebuilding.*—The committee consider that if an additional building be covered in within one month instead of twenty-one days after the principal building, that such buildings ought then to be free from additional fees.

The word repairs, in this schedule, ought to be taken out, as repairs, generally speaking, are not intended to be surveyed by the district surveyor.

In this schedule (L.) the *Fees for Special Duties* appear in several of them as exceedingly objectionable, inasmuch as they are included in the alterations and rebuilding of new houses on old foundations.

The whole of the fees "*for attending to the cutting away Chimney-breasts for External Walls.*"—These fees are included in the fees receivable for the new house about to be built against such "*external wall.*"

The fee for condemning party-fence-walls would be amply paid for by a fee of ten shillings instead of a guinea.

The fee for inspecting arches or stone floors over public ways is also included in the fees for building the dwelling-house, and ought not to remain in the schedule.

For Measuring the Width of Streets.—This is a fee for a trifling incidental service, and although only ten shillings, yet it is not set out whether it is to be a charge upon every house in the street; if so, in a street of fifty or sixty houses, your committee must say that the work for which this fee is provided is much overpaid; but if it is to be distributed among all the houses, it would be of no very great consequence, amounting only to two-pence or two-pence-halfpenny each house.

Fee for Inspecting Openings in Party-walls.—This fee is also paid either at the first formation of the wall, or if at any future period, it would be payable under the scale of fees for alterations and additions.

Fees for Drains and Cesspools.—As these would be for surveys incidental with the foundations of the new buildings, no fees ought to be payable for so small an addition to the duty of the district surveyor.

Fees for Inspecting Chimney-pots, &c., above a certain height.—As this duty is of so very indefinite a character, and the fee might become a very oppressive and unjust charge, having been in no previous instance levied upon the public, your committee would strongly recommend that it be expunged.

Fees for Special Services, not expressly provided for.—Your committee think it is hardly possible that, following out the fees as set forth in this schedule, there are any duties, however small, that have not been fully provided for; they therefore recommend that this proviso be taken out altogether.

SCHEDULE M. relates to forms of notices, &c., and to which it will be unnecessary to call your attention, these being merely such as the several parties, surveyors, builders, referees, owners and others, are to have served upon them previous to any of the provisions in the Act being put in operation.

Your committee having thus brought under your notice the most material parts of this important proposed enactment, recommend to your serious consideration its several provisions, together with the amendments recommended in this report.

(Signed) H. BIERS, President.

March, 1844.

THE MANCHESTER GAS WORKS.—These works, at the present moment, are no doubt the most extensive in the kingdom; what they are destined to become in a few years more, should the demand continue to increase as it has done for the last three or four years, it would be a hard guess. Some idea may be formed of their magnitude when it is stated that there is now 1,100,000 cubic feet of gasometer space, and the directors have just completed contract for an additional gasometer, to contain 200,000 feet, so that when this is in operation, which will be during the present year, there will be gasometer room for 1,300,000 cubic feet.—*Westmoreland Paper.*

A COSTLY WINDOW.—Messrs. Kendall, Milne, and Falkner, the eminent haberdashers, at the Bazaar, Deansgate, Manchester, have just had a window completed of costly description. It is 42 ft. long, and 12 ft. high, and contains upwards of 650 ft. of the best plate glass, and its entire cost is said to exceed 500*l.*

ON THE INFLUENCE OF ATMOSPHERIC AIR IN EFFECTING CHANGES IN ORGANIC AND INORGANIC BODIES.

BY HENRY G. MONTAGUE, ESQ., PROFESSOR OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.

No. I.

A CORRECT knowledge of Nature enables men to think and speak with mathematical precision, to demonstrate truths, and to impart instruction to others: it enlarges their mental capabilities and powers, excites and directs their inquiries, and regulates their acts and determinations. Without that necessary knowledge of Nature which strictly appertains to his profession, the civil engineer finds insurmountable obstacles in the way of his inventions and discoveries; the architect finds his stately building totter to its fall, or exhibit premature decay; and the youthful aspirant to professional fame performs his Sisyphus-like task until his young hopes withering by repeated disappointments, he sinks unnoticed, and unknown, into the stream of oblivion. In this varied and highly Intellectual pursuit, each of them must bear in mind, that there are natural obstacles to be overcome, temperature and association to be guarded against, and that the varied material of the earth is called into requisition on all occasions, and under varied forms and combinations; it is therefore essentially necessary that MINERALOGY take a prominent position in the education of youth, embracing GETALLURGY, or a knowledge of the metals; PETRALOGY, or the knowledge of rocks and stones; and such portions of GEOLOGY as embrace the earths, in their varied chemical and mechanical combinations, passing by the numerous absurd speculations and unmeaning phrases of the latter *branch of mineralogy*; and confining their studies to the several conditions under which mineral bodies and mineral beds exist,—to the affinities of bodies,—their powers of cohesion, elasticity, or expansion,—and to the manifest and demonstrable causes which compel them to change in their character and individuality.

To assist the aspiring mind, and to awaken inquiry, by holding up the mirror of nature—to teach the youthful student to avoid the shoals of induction and false philosophy—and to divest science of its forbidding features, its technicalities, and its mysticisms, will be my object in this and the succeeding articles which I purpose laying before the enlightened and studious readers of THE BUILDER.

The atmosphere, the ocean, and the earth, are the three grand divisions of this planetary body, mutually united and uniting with each other, and increasing and diminishing in the sum of their respective volumes perpetually, forming one vast laboratory. In which nature operates immense analyses, as solutions, precipitations, and combinations, in and by which organic bodies are generated, elements and elementary compounds are elaborated, and the phenomena of the fossil and mineral kingdoms are produced. Each of these grand divisions is a *chaos* of contending elements and elementary bodies, of conflicting and discordant material, indeterminate in their mixtures, quantities, and qualities, conflicting in their local motions, but united by one general base, and by the general motions which embrace within their revolutions all the lesser systems.

To the conjoint elements of the air and waters the varied and complicated phenomena of the latter owe their origin; to the conjoint action of the air, the waters, and the gaseous, aqueous, and consolidated matters generated within the waters, the varied and still more beautiful phenomena of the earth owe their origin, birth, and being: again, to the action and re-action of these mechanical combinations, each is indebted for its peculiar phenomena. Upon the surface of the earth as within the waters, the powers of atmospheric action are palpably manifest to all men as being derived from the sun, and communicated to the earth, by which the atmospheric volumes are enabled to combine with the compounds termed earth, being the co-operative causes of generation and multiplication of animal and vegetable species, and of fossil and mineral bodies, in their almost endless diversity of character, form, and composition. It is by atmospheric action generally manifest over the whole earth that general results are produced, and by local action or temperature that local results are produced.

The local effects of temperature are strikingly manifest in the production of the animals and

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